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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/830,398 | 07/19/2001 | Milivoj Vujic | P24.870-USA | 7782 |

7590 04/08/2003

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EXAMINER

CHANG, VICTOR S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1771

13

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/830,398 | VUJIC, MILIVOJ | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Victor S Chang | 1771 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 and 14-29 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 21-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4, 14-20 and 24-29 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 12. 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Rejections not maintained are withdrawn.

Election/Restrictions

3. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-4, 14-20 and 24-29 in Paper No. 11 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that "there should not be a serious burden either for searching or evaluating the publications ..." (Response, page 4, second paragraph). This is not found persuasive because unity of invention is lacking and restriction is appropriate (see section 2 of Paper No. 10).

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claims 16 and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In newly amended claims 16, 24-26, line 5 in each claim, the term "different" is vague and indefinite. The Examiner would like to respectfully point out that if one considers elements at the microscopic level, virtually every element would be "different", i.e., the scope of the difference is required.

Response to Amendment

5. Claims 1-18 and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi (US 4287245) either individually, or in view of GB 2296749 for claims 14-15, 17-18 and 27-29, substantially for the reasons set forth in sections 9 and 11 of Paper No. 10, together with the following additional observations.

While the newly amended claim 1 overcomes the prior 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection as set forth in section 9 of Paper No. 10, the Examiner takes Official Notice that incorporating a water vapor barrier cover for pipe insulation is old and well known. Note also as evidence of the state of the art DE 29618681 (Derwent Abstract) which teaches that the surface of the insulation has a covering of vapor-retarding or vapor-blocking film. As such, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Kikuchi's heat insulator to incorporate a water vapor barrier film at the outer surface of the heat-insulating material, motivated by the desire to further improve the moisture-proof property, which is taught by Kikuchi as a desired property (column 8, lines 6-8).

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor S Chang whose telephone number is 703-605-4296. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel H Morris can be reached on 703-308-2414. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

VSC
April 4, 2003

DANIEL ZIRKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300
1700

